

Living in Freedom: The Devil Exposed

Week 9

Overview: We can't fully know who God is, and His plans for us, until we identify who our enemy is in comparison with God. If we are not aware of the enemy's tactics then we tend to blame circumstances or belief systems on God. That's exactly what the enemy wants. We need to realize that the devil has no power over us unless we have handed it over. A lot of us hand it over unaware that we did so. God is so much bigger than anything the enemy can do to us, but if we are not aware of God's characteristics versus the devil's then it's hard to identify what areas the enemy is operating in. Scripture reveals all of this to us, but the problem is that we don't always look at scripture and take it for what it says. This week we are going to break down the devil's job description in order to fully recognize him in our lives and learn how powerful our Heavenly Father is.

Satan's Identity

Adversary (Peter 5:8)
Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12)
Slanderer (Revelation 12:19)
Evil one (John 5:18)
Tempter (Matthew 4:3)
Destroyer (Revelation 9:11)
Thief (John 10:10)
Accuser (Revelation 12:10)
Father of lies (John 8:44)
God of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4)

God's Identity

Jesus our friend (John 15:15)
Author of life (Acts 3:18)
Faithful and true (Revelation 19:11)
Perfect love (1 John 4:10)
Deliverer (Luke 8:36)
Makes us new (2 Corinthians 5:17)
Restorer (Isaiah 61:7)
Righteous judge (Isaiah 33:22)
Redeemer (Deuteronomy 7:8)
Jesus our savior (Luke 2:11)
God who sees me (Genesis 16:13)

Enemy Tactics

Influence: Thought life, temptations for compromise, lie-based belief systems, lie-based coping mechanisms, obstacles in advancing the gospel, obstacles in advancing your knowledge and relationship with God. (This is opposition that can be very subtle and hard to recognize.)

Oppress: Harass, torment, depress, complete captivity, feels like you don't have a choice (bondage) (Acts 10:38, Luke 13:11). "A sense of heaviness or obstruction in the body or mind, weigh down, to burden spiritually or mentally by abuse of power or authority."--Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary

Control: domination of mind, speech and behavior (only non-believers).

These create a wall spiritually between you and God.

How to identify an area in your life that can become an open door for a stronghold (allowing the devil a legal right of entry):

1. Repetitive sin
2. Idol: anything you put above your relationship with God
3. Accepting a thought pattern or belief system contrary to the word of God (example: fear)
4. Ignoring the Holy Spirit's leading
5. Holding bitterness or offense
6. Pride (there are many forms of pride)
7. Lying tongue
8. Generational sin (examples: abuse, addiction, fear, bitterness, pornography, sickness, occult)
9. Trauma or experience (example: rape, words spoken about you)
10. Unhealthy relationship with someone (Soul tie)
11. Occult, cult

“So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you.”
James 4:7 (AMP)

“For you shall worship no other god; for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous [impassioned] God.”
Exodus 34:14 (AMP)

“Do not be conformed to this world [this age], [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed [changed] by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].”
Romans 12:2 (AMP)

“When angry, do not sin; do not ever let your wrath [your exasperation, your fury or indignation] last until the sun goes down. Leave no [such] room or foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him].”
Ephesians 4:26-27 (AMP)

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall”
Proverbs 16:18 (AMP)

“You are of your father, the devil, and it is your will to practice the lusts and gratify the desires [which are characteristic] of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a falsehood, he speaks what is natural to him, for he is a liar [himself] and the father of lies and of all that is false.”
John 8:44 (AMP)

“You shall not bow down yourself to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me [Isaiah 42:8; 48:11].”

Exodus 20:5 (AMP)

“Or do you not know and realize that when a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? The two, it is written, shall become one flesh.”

[Genesis 2:24]

1 Corinthians 6:16 (AMP)

Areas That Can Hinder Us

Definition of bondage: the state of being a slave.

- You can be in bondage to a wrong thought, attitude or actions.
- In this state, you are under control of something evil.
- You allow idols in your life to have priority over your relationship with God.
- You don't fully submit to God's plan for your life because of worldly desires that take up your attention.

Examples of bondages/strongholds
(check all that apply)

- Worry, anxiety, laziness
- Pride
- Lust
- Unbelief (finding it impossible to believe God's truths in your heart)
- Sexual sin
- Money
- Image
- Idols of any kind (anything you put before God or anything that takes your focus off God)
- Unhealthy compulsions (examples: shopping, eating, addictions of all kinds)
- Unhealthy relationships (co-dependency)
- Fear
- Depression
- Apathy (lack of interest or concern)
- Bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness
- Lukewarm attitude
- Greed
- Opinions of others
- People pleasing
- Fear of rejection
- Envy

“Be self controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.”

1 Peter 5:8&9 (NIV)

False Belief Systems

Identifying false belief system can take your whole life. All of us have certain false beliefs that we gained through religion, experiences, parents, trauma etc. The enemy's voice make us function, react, cope and live your everyday life based on these beliefs. It's going to take more than a couple exercises to identify all your false belief systems. It's a continual process to unveil these in our lives. When we are open to the Holy Spirit and God's plans, He will reveal them to us. We need to take time with Him and allow Him to speak in order that we would align with His truth.

Recognize > Repent > Renew> Rebuke = RESTORE!!

1. Recognize: Identify an area that the enemy operates in or belief system where we have allowed him to deceive us.
2. Repent: Confess it out loud and repent, receive God's forgiveness and allow Him to wash you clean with the blood of Jesus.
3. Renew: Transform your mind through God's promises, begin to stand on His promise and align yourself with His truth.
4. Rebuke: Use your mouth and your authority and speak back to the lies or the demonic operating in that area.
5. Restore: Allow God to restore that area or belief system.

Self Reflection/Small Groups

Pray this prayer out loud before beginning this Holy Spirit prayer time.

“Father, I come to You today offering everything of myself before You. I want You to mold me into everything You are. Help me to quiet myself in Your presence so that I may hear You clearly. Thank You that I am your sheep and I hear my Shepherd's voice (John 10:27) and I know Your voice. Holy Spirit, please quiet any voice of the demonic that may try to interfere in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for your pure and perfect love for me.”

Self reflection

List areas that have kept you from God's best and where you desire freedom. Sit and quiet your mind and ask God WHY you have allowed this area to hinder you. Write down everything that comes to mind. Allow the Holy Spirit to minister to you.

Small group confession:

1. I acknowledge and renounce the any area that may be hindering me.

I declare these chains loosened in Jesus name!

2. “I invite the Holy Spirit into this area of my life. I confess that Jesus Christ is my Lord and He reigns over every area of my life. Thank you Jesus, that it is through your death, burial and resurrection that I am set free from anything hindering me. I claim that truth today and walk forward into everything You have for me.”

At home reflection:

Write scripture that is the truth about that strong hold. Example: if your stronghold is fear, then find scriptures on peace.